

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/517,432

Applicant(s)

VIRE ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Lars A. Olson

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the after-final amendment received from the applicant on July 25, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-9,11,12 and 14-16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reasons for Allowance

1. An after-final amendment was received from the applicant on July 25, 2006.
2. Claim 2, 3, 10 and 13 have been canceled.
3. Claims 1, 4-9, 11, 12 and 14-16 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The device for unwinding a wire between two moving objects that operate in a fluid as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a device that is comprised a wire that is wound on at least one coil that is received in a reel, said reel being arranged between two moving objects, where one moving object is launched from the other moving object by means of a launching mechanism, and said reel is further comprised of a stabilizing means in the form of a keel, and a foam washer or pushing spacer that is associated with said reel is located between said launched moving object and said launching mechanism to bring about the transmission of pushing forces during a launching operation.
5. The prior art as disclosed by Hightower et al. (US 4,010,619) shows the use of an underwater device for unwinding a wire between two moving objects, said device being comprised of a wire that is wound on at least one coil that is received in a reel, said reel being arranged between said two moving objects, where said reel can be separated from said two moving objects and has a stabilizing means. Buffman et al. (US 5,752,460) discloses a submersible towed body that includes a stabilizing means in the form of a keel that is connected in a fixed plane on said towed body. However,

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none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a device for unwinding a wire between two moving objects that operate in a fluid, said device being comprised a wire that is wound on at least one coil that is received in a reel, said reel being arranged between two moving objects, where one moving object is launched from the other moving object by means of a launching mechanism, and said reel is further comprised of a stabilizing means in the form of a keel, and a foam washer or pushing spacer that is associated with said reel is located between said launched moving object and said launching mechanism to bring about the transmission of pushing forces during a launching operation.

Conclusion

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

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August 9, 2006

LARS A. OLSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Lars Olson
8/9/06